

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1    1. – 9. (Cancelled)

1    10.    (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining secure network connections, the  
2    method comprising:

3                duplicating, at a third network element, a security association associated with a secure  
4    network connection between a first network element and a second network element, wherein a  
5    lookup of the security association associated with the secure network connection is not  
6    dependent on any destination address; and

7                in response to detecting failure of the second network element, replacing the second  
8    network element with the third network element in the secure network connection with the first  
9    network element, wherein the secure network connection between the first network element and  
10   the third network element is based on the duplicated security association.

1    11.    (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 further comprising sending at  
2    least one secure message from the third network element to the first network element to notify  
3    the first network element that the secure network connection will be taken over by the third  
4    network element.

1    12.    (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining secure network connections, the  
2    method comprising:  
3                configuring a plurality of security gateways such that a lookup of security associations is  
4    not dependent on any destination address; and  
5                sharing a security association among the plurality of security gateways.

1    13.    (Cancelled)

1    14.    (Previously Presented) The first security server according to claim 22, wherein a lookup  
2    of security associations is not dependent on any destination address.

1 15. – 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Previously Presented) The first security server according to claim 22, wherein  
2 communications between the mobile client and the first security server are based on a security  
3 architecture for the internet protocol (IPsec).

1 18. – 19. (Cancelled)

1 20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
2 during life of the secure network connection between the first and second network  
3 elements, the third network element receiving information relating to the security association of  
4 the secure network connection from the second network element.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the first network element is a  
2 mobile client, and the second and third network elements are security servers.

1 22. (Previously Presented) A first security server comprising:  
2 a transceiver to receive information relating to at least one security association of a secure  
3 network connection between a mobile client and a second security server; and  
4 a processor module to:  
5 monitor operation of the second security server;  
6 in response to detecting failure of the second security server, send a message to  
7 the mobile client that the first security server is taking over the secure network connection; and  
8 communicate with the mobile client using the at least one security association  
9 over the secure network connection between the first security server and the mobile client.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the first network element is a  
2 mobile client, and the second and third network elements are security servers.

- 1    24. (Previously Presented) The first security server of claim 22, wherein information relating
- 2    to the at least one security association is duplicated at the first and second security servers.

  

- 1    25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein sharing the security association
- 2    comprises sharing an IPsec security association among the plurality of security gateways.